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DEMOCRATIC

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SEN. BLASTS GEN.

US Statesman on Nazi Heusinger

Democratic Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon came out strongly against the appointment of nazi General Adolf Heusinger as Chairman of the NATO Permanent Military Planning Commission in the US Senate on April 19th.

Senator Morse described the appointment as "a gross wrong to the thousands of American soldiers who lost their lives fighting against the nazis". The protest was almost entirely ignored by the American press.

Addressing the Senate, Senator Morse said that he had sent a letter to Mr Dean Rusk, US Secretary of State, criticising US endorsement of General Heusinger. In this letter he had stated: "I do not buy the argument that in order to build up the military strength of West Germany you have to put nazi generals in military positions of high command. I completely disagree with the US Government's position that Heusinger cleared himself at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial. Heusinger was one of the top nazi commanders who played a very important role in the formation of military policies and their execution. The US has made a serious mistake in supporting Heusinger's appointment."

Heusinger was Chief of Operations on Hitler's General Staff, and planned all the nazi invasions. On April 1st he took up the post of chairman of the NATO Permanent Military Planning Commission, a post equivalent to NATO Chief of Staff.

Soviet Protest on Wehrmacht Bases

The Soviet Union officially protested to Britain on April 26th at the British decision to grant West Germany bases in Britain.

The Soviet Note stated:

"The British Government is taking the initiative in providing the Bundeswehr with bases on British territory. This latest step is giving an additional impetus to the strengthening of aggressive and revenge-seeking circles in West Germany ...

"The actions of the British Government bear witness to the fact that Britain not only has no intention of departing from the policy of rearming West Germany, and providing the Bundeswehr with the most modern types of weapons, but that on the contrary it is urging the German Federal Republic to carry out far-reaching measures in the field of armaments."

In reply, a British Foreign Office spokesman stated that West Germany was an equal member of the NATO alliance, and that the only restrictions imposed on them were those which they accepted under the Brussels Treaty of 1954, under which the West German Government undertook not to produce atomic, biological or chemical weapons, or certain other weapons beyond agreed numbers and sizes.

One day earlier, on April 25th, an exchange in the British House of Lords had shown clearly how effective these restrictions on West German arms had become. Here is the relevant extract from the Parliamentary Report in "The Times" of April 26th:

"Viscount Alexander of Hillsborough asked whether the West German Government proposed to build 6,000-ton destroyers which would be double the size and tonnage permitted to West Germany under the treaty of 1954, and whether the Government had any information about the proposed armaments of the projected vessels and whether the matter had yet been considered by the Council of NATO.

"The Marquess of Landsdowne, Under-Secretary, Foreign Office. — Amendment of the provisions of the revised Brussels Treaty of 1954 with regard to the manufacture of certain armaments in the Federal German Republic is a matter for the Council of Western European Union, where certain proposals concerning the manufacture of German destroyers are under consideration. As discussion in the Council is confidential I cannot reveal details until a decision has been reached.

"Lord Henderson. — Are we to understand that the Bonn Convention can be altered without Parliament being informed before a decision is taken?

"The Marquess of Landsdowne. — The Federal German Republic is a full member of NATO, with equal status to that of the United Kingdom. The rearment of German forces committed to NATO has the full support of the British Government because it is necessary for western defence.

"Viscount Alexander. — This is an extraordinary position. What has been the advice given by the Admiralty and the chiefs of staff to our representatives on the NATO Council? Is not Parliament entitled to know?

"The Marquess of Landsdowne said he appreciated the point but was not in a position to give a detailed reply.

"Viscount Alexander. — The First Lord is here and he knows the answer. It is very unsatisfactory and I shall return to it.

T. U. LEADER WARNS

Democracy is in danger in West Germany, Hans Naetscher, president of West Germany's Food and Restaurant Workers Union, stated on May 1st. Writing in the May issue of "Einigkeit", his union's monthly newspaper, he stated:

"Democracy is in danger. From Globke downwards, the men of the past, the enemies of democracy occupy all important positions, dominate all parliaments ... In a country like the Bonn state it seems that you need to have been a first-class enemy of democracy in the past in order to get anywhere.

"We should never forget May 1st 1933 (when Hitler broke the trade union movement in Germany, ed.) ... The same rats are at work again today, undermining and spreading hate. Let us hope that the workers will always remember what this leads to and will therefore stop them in the early stages. The best way for us to do this is to destroy these rats wherever we find them.

"The idea of May Day is still alive and will continue to live, despite all opposing forces and despite the 'economic miracle'. Neither in the past nor at present is it fantasy to say: 'All wheels stop turning when we decide to use our strength' ...

"We reject the rearmament of our country, and we reject especially rearmament with atomic weapons. We demand a general ban on all weapons of annihilation in the whole world.

"It is not enough to talk about peace – it is high time that peace were finally achieved. Is it not tragic to realise that 16 years after the end of the war we have a divided Germany but we still do not have a peace treaty?

"Although we need schools and hospitals urgently, we are building barracks, military airports and training areas. We demand that a thorough build-up along social lines finally get under way.

"We shall resist with every means at our command the sinister plans of Interior Minister Schroeder, who wants an Emergency Control Law to invalidate the constitution, render the trade unions powerless and do away with every trace of democracy and liberty."

Bonn Wants More Bombs

West German Defence Minister Franz-Josef Strauss demanded more and more nuclear weapons for the Bonn Bundeswehr on April 26th.

In a speech to the West German Parliament he demanded that the present nuclear armament of the West German forces should be increased. The Bonn army should have the following weapons, Strauss urged:

1. One battalion of short-range Honest John nuclear rockets for each of its 12 divisions.

2. One unit of the more modern and heavier Sergeant rockets for each of its four army corps.

3. "A greatly increased number" of Matador medium range nuclear rockets, with which the Bundeswehr could bombard large parts of eastern Europe. At present the Bundeswehr has 24 Matadors.

4. "A large number" of Atomic Annie howitzers.

"Only if these demands are met will the Bundeswehr be in a position to fulfil its task as mainstay of the NATO forces in central Europe", Strauss stated.

"Good Will" Ambassadors

West Germany has just appointed one more old Ribbentrop diplomat to an important embassy post; Dr Friedrich Janz, the new ambassador in Vienna, **Austria,** served as legation counsellor for the nazi Foreign Office in Paris, Warsaw and Rome. In recent years he has worked as deputy for former top nazi civil servant Globke in the Federal Chancellory at Bonn.

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Rumours spread in Bonn that Dr Wilhelm Melchers, Bonn's ambassador in **India and Nepal,** would soon be recalled. Melcher, an old nazi, had recently praised a German book about India which said sarcastically that crematorium furnaces were better adapted than open-hearth furnaces for India's 400,000,000 people. This had caused a wide-spread scandal in India.

During the Hitler regime Melchers had worked in the nazi embassies in Tokyo and Teheran, and had then become Nazi Germany's consul in Haifa (then Palestine).

In 1939 he joined the Nazi Party (membership no. 7,077,242) and became head of the Near East Section of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department. In this capacity he helped forge Hitler's alliance with the arch-reactionary Grand Mufti of Jerusalem.

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Dr Karl Werkmeister, new West German ambassador in **Sweden,** is another old nazi diplomat with an important post in the Foreign Service. Werkmeister was Embassy Counsellor in the nazi Embassy in Budapest during the war. In 1942, when Hungary had not yet officially begun its later rabid anti-Semitism, Werkmeister helped several Hungarian officers escape to Germany. The men had killed 13,000 Jewish women and children in Ujvedek (occupied Yugoslavia) and Werkmeister covered up for their escape to Germany on orders of the nazi Foreign Ministry.

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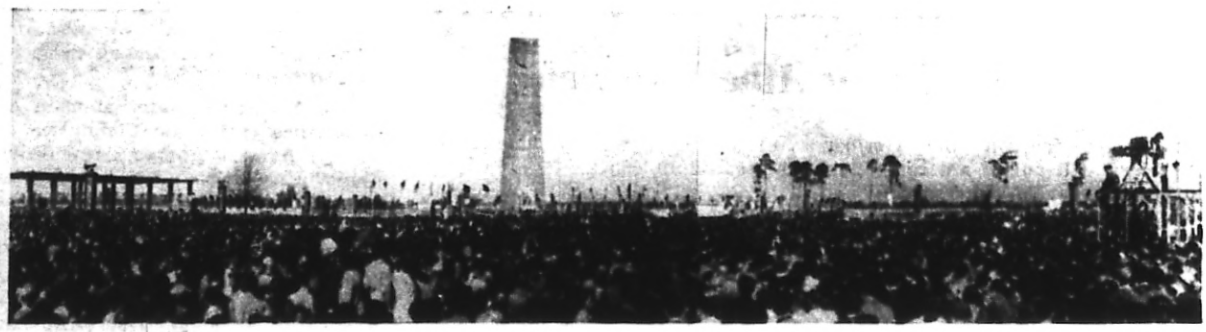
New 11,000-ton Freighters

The first of six new 11,000-ton freighters was launched in the GDR shipyards of Warnemuende on April 22nd. These ships are the first freighters of this size to be produced in the GDR. The ships in this class will be better suited for the routes to Africa, South America and Murmansk on the Soviet Union's Arctic Coast.

The ship was christened "Luebbenau" after the huge new power plant being constructed south of Berlin.

200,000 Honour Hitler's Victims



100,000 people were killed by the nazis in Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp.

100,000 people were expected at the ceremony opening the new memorial on the site of the camp, and the similarity of the figures was stressed — for every victim of the nazis, someone to carry on the fight today against fascism, militarism and war.

But the planners in the Memorial Committee were wrong. On April 23rd, a beautiful, warm day in the GDR, an estimated 200,000 people poured by car, bus, train, truck and city elevated railway to the little town of Sachsenhausen, about 20 miles north of Berlin, for the three-hour ceremony which opened the impressive memorial. If ever proof were needed for the deep-rooted anti-fascist nature of the German Democratic Republic and its leaders, this day proved it again.

Not only were the top leaders of the government on the big platform at the opening ceremony; more important than that, the whole countryside for miles around had been organized. All the roads were decorated with flags, bunting and welcome signs; crowds of people, and especially children, lined the routes and waved to all who passed. All the people in the towns and villages along the route, all the people in the factories, offices and cooperative farms which sent delegations, all were reminded again of the word Sachsenhausen and what fear it had once brought to people in all parts of nazi-occupied Europe.

Sachsenhausen memorial, like the memorials built at the former concentration camps of Buchenwald and Ravenbrueck, was built with voluntary contributions amounting to nearly £ 3,000,000 made by the people of the GDR. The week preceding the opening of the monument was marked by a flood of articles, film shows and radio and TV programmes. The facts of the nazi past had been thoroughly detailed to everyone, young and old, in the course of this campaign.

The ones who were probably most impressed at the widespread participation of the population were the visitors from West Germany and other western countries. Survivors of nazi terror from all over Europe had come for the ceremony — many of the old inmates of the camp were there, and occasionally one could see dramatic reunions between men who had met as hungry, tortured prisoners and never seen each other since.

Twenty-five countries were represented, and at the ceremony a speaker from each one spoke a few words. After the speeches, the visitors walked slowly past the big obelisk and statue and through the large open building where the foundations of the crematorium ovens are to be seen, past the dug-out where nooses show the spot where thousands were executed, through the walls symbolising the first lines of prisoners' barracks, and then, under the shadow of the old watchtowers, out of the gateway which was once the entrance-way to death for so many of the best people of Europe.

Two museums have also been built at the memorial site. One shows something of the life of the prisoners at Sachsenhausen and of the difficult underground struggle they led. The other includes exhibits sent by almost every country in Europe showing dramatically with photo panels, models, primitive weapons and leaflets how the anti-fascists fought in their country against the nazis.

A constant note, both in the exhibits and in the speeches, was a warning against the increasing danger of neo-nazism and militarism in West Germany, and the demand that such crimes should never be repeated.

Visitors from many European countries were shocked to hear that many of the SS guards who tortured the prisoners of Sachsenhausen today live free in West Germany, some of them in responsible positions. SS Major Fritz Kornely, who selected political prisoners for execution, is today a high detective police officer in Cologne; his war-time assistant SS Sergeant Major Kurt Erdmann is a detective police officer in Stade, West Germany. Three of the SS doctors of Sachsenhausen, all implicated in medical experiments on prisoners, are practicing as doctors in West Germany today: they are Dr Heinz Baumkoetter of Munich, Dr Gaberle in Hamburg, and Dr Kreibisch in Kiel.

"Guardian" for GDR Recognition

The influential British "Guardian" suggested on April 24th that "limited de facto recognition" should be given to the German Democratic Republic.

In a leading article the "Guardian" stated:

"The West ... would be foolish to get so embroiled in a holding operation over Berlin that it forgets that the really decisive battlefields of the cold war are in Latin America, Africa and Asia. A direct Russian threat to the freedom of West Berlin must be resisted, if necessary by force. But a separate peace treaty between the Soviet Union and Eastern Germany, which led to East German control over the access to Berlin, could be accepted — even if it meant a limited, de facto recognition of the East German regime."

Banishing Nazism in Democratic Germany

By Professor Albert Norden

Many things in the German Democratic Republic are completely different from the old Germany, and one of these changes is particularly satisfying: it is the fact that we have educated a new young generation, young people who have a deep-rooted belief in the equality and equal rights of all nationalities, young people who regard terms like "racism" and "Herrenvolk" and all the other fascist slogans and theories with sarcastic and militant hostility.

This was not easy to accomplish. To achieve it, we had to dismiss tens of thousands of teachers from their jobs, we had to train as many and more new teachers, we had to create a new, humanist conception of people and history, we had to put new wine into old bottles.

The breeding of racist feelings of superiority and contempt for the people of other countries was one of the necessary ingredients of the rule by German militarists, Junker landlords and armament kings, who needed an ideology like that to prepare people for war and oppression.

Our state includes what was once the central stronghold of Prussia, a word long synonymous with militarism. But examine our army, which, by the way, we have voluntarily reduced in strength from 120,000 to 90,000 men. It is led by proven anti-fascists, men who fought in the International Brigades in Spain, men who achieved great successes in the underground resistance movement against Hitler. Not a single one of our generals served as an officer under Hitler. In the Adenauer state, on the other hand, every one of the 140 generals and admirals of the Bundeswehr, the navy and the Luftwaffe were high-ranking officers and generals under Hitler, and many of them were decorated with the Knight's Cross.

Of the eleven members of the Presidium of the GDR's Cabinet, nine took part in illegal work against the Hitler regime, either in Germany or in exile, and several of them were imprisoned for many years in prisons and concentration camps. The members of the Politbureau of the Socialist Unity Party's Central Committee were sentenced to a total of 69 years in prison. Many of them also spent years in concentration camps without having been sentenced in court.

Compare this with the composition of the Adenauer government, where 11 of the 17 ministers aided nazism, gained advantages from it, and served as experts or ideologists for the nazi regime.

By rejecting a peace treaty, this Adenauer-Strauss government betrays its true intentions. Anyone who refuses to conclude a peace treaty admits that he is not satisfied with present frontiers but wants to change them by force.

Today the Adenauer government is preparing for "revenge" on all levels:

military — by feverish armament programmes including measures for an atomic arms build-up;

ideologically — by means of irredentist and annexationist propaganda;

organisationally — by creating a network of so-called East Institutes, which preach the necessity of conquering new Lebensraum (living-space) areas at all schools and universities, and by organising the groups exerting pressure for a "move to the east".

In the months of May to September last year alone, the Adenauer government organised nine central rallies of the so-called Landsmannschaften (organisations of re-settlers from eastern Europe, ed.). These included Congresses of "Sudeten Germans" directed against Czechoslovakia, and of "Banat Swabians" directed against Rumania. In June in Hanover and Frankfurt (Main) there were three big rallies directed against Poland, meetings of Silesians, Danzigers and people from the Weichsel-Warthe area. In August there was another rally of the Sudeten Germans and one of the Bessarabian Germans. All of these central meetings make territorial demands and all get substantial financial support from the Adenauer government; cabinet ministers take part in the meetings. In the coming months there will be, in West Berlin alone, 82 smaller meetings of Landsmannschaften from Poland.

The machinery of the state and the courts are set in motion against anyone who opposes this chauvinist course. Schroeder, the one-time storm trooper and present West German Minister of the Interior, has started court action in West Germany against the Association of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime aimed at banning this organisation. Two months ago he told the Bundestag that he wants to make other democratic organisations illegal before long. Among those he named were:

The Fédération Internationale de Résistance (FIR), the Committee of Action Against Atomic Armaments, the World Peace Council, and, as he said literally, "certain organisations of former concentration camp inmates — Auschwitz, Buchenwald and others."

The judges to do this ugly business are ready at hand. The GDR has already exposed 1050 of Hitler's most heavily incriminated hanging judges who now hold important positions in Adenauer's state. We have recently found another 120 such fascist murderers. During the nazi regime these judges imposed at least 70,000 death sentences. Although they have been proven guilty, not one of these murderers has been punished by the Adenauer government; indeed, a number of them have been promoted. 24 of these proven criminals hold positions in West German ministries, 31 are in the Supreme Courts of the Federal Republic and 263 are presidents, senate presidents and court directors in the West German court system. At their head is Justice Minister Schaeffer, who rejoiced verbally and in writing at Hitler's seizure of power, who made speeches and wrote pamphlets in favour of Hitler and against the Jews and who demanded the creation of a dictatorship in Germany.

I should like to point out in this connection that there is not a single former Hitler special court judge or military judge in office in the GDR. Here we have sacked all people employed in the nazi period in the court system, the police departments or similar institutions.

The sponsors, the accomplices, the colleagues and the spiritual bedfellows of Eichmann fill government posts in Bonn by the thousands; the facts would really justify re-christening Bonn as Eichmann City.

A very cautious analysis has shown that 8250 men who served Hitler in important positions in the army, the administration, the courts, foreign service, etc. now hold influential jobs in the ministries of the Adenauer government. At the head of this whole hierarchy is State Secretary Globke —and in the weeks ahead the world will find out more new and important facts about his criminal past.

(from a speech to European resistance fighters in East Berlin on April 24th)

Profile of an Artist

By Allen Mann

Art can be a very touchy subject, in the GDR as elsewhere; it can cause hot and even personal differences and disputes. To find out about the problems and possibilities of artists' life here, I consulted the young East Berlin artist Josef Brueck, partly because I was already acquainted with him, and partly also because he had spent many years as an anti-nazi refugee in England.

The first thing Brueck told me about was a stormy discussion the night before, centring on an exhibition given by the Club of Young Artists, a group in which he is an active member. The questions at issue were as usual "socialist realism" as against "modernism" or various other schools of art, the related problem as to whether a painting can or should be understood by the public at large and especially by working people; whether certain pictures were "optimistic" enough, whether they were "typical" of real conditions, good and bad, or whether some were in fact so optimistic that they had become saccharine sweet and lacked all conflict. Some artists and other participants in the debate had claimed that this or that artist lacked an individual style; others were criticised for having borrowed an "individual style" from other artists such as Picasso.

But let me introduce Josef Brueck. Born in Vienna in 1942, he started working in a bakery at the age of twelve, from 3.00 a. m. until school began. When Hitler moved eastward Brueck, who is Jewish, was forced to flee to Czechoslovakia, then to Poland and finally to England. A penniless immigrant, he did not have it easy, and worked long hours for some years on an estate in Berkshire. Later he was given the job of male nurse in a hospital; his application to join the RAF was turned down since he was classified as an enemy alien.

But then his luck changed. His sketching ability accidentally attracted the attention of an art teacher in Oxford and he was able to study for four years at the Ruskin School of Art. In 1949, unable to return to Austria for technical passport reasons, he travelled by bicycle with his wife to her previous home of Berlin. She, too, had been forced to emigrate from Hitler Germany and had been able to study in Britain.

After all previous attempts to find his family had always ended at the blank wall called "Auschwitz", he found in 1955 by accident that his father had survived the war. But the old neighbour who had heard from him was now so frail and senile that she could remember nothing. After almost giving up all hope again, another accidental piece of luck led him to letters from his father. He had been taken off the train to Auschwitz by nazis who needed labour desperately, and had managed to live through the war as a slave labourer and concentration camp inmate. Brueck found him settled on a small farm in Poland and brought him to East Berlin.

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What is the life of an artist like, in East Berlin or the GDR? Here are some of the things Josef Brueck told me.

One main way of earning a living for artists here is to work on a special commission granted by the city government. A few years ago, for example, Brueck got such a commission to go to a big new airport construction site near Berlin which had been proclaimed a "youth project". Such commissions last at least three months; in this case, it had been extended to seven months. During this period he went out to the building site about three or four times a week, got friendly with a work crew or "brigade" there, lent a hand occasionally, listened, watched and made countless sketches. Before long he had a series of paintings, drawings and prints; many were portraits of individual workers, others showed work in progress.

Josef Brueck, young GDR artist, made this sketch of a Berliner construction worker during his visits to the youth building site at Schoenefeld Airport.

Under his commission, Brueck received 500 marks (about £40) a month for this period. In return, the city had the right to have one of the major works he produced; they chose a folio of 15 prints and published them in book form. Everything else he had done during the seven months was at his own disposal. The city also bought several of the other prints and paintings he had made and so did both the airport administration and the Free German Youth organisation which sponsors the youth construction project.

A later agreement of this nature sent him to a large Berlin engineering plant, and at present he is on a similar commission at a cooperative farm not far from Berlin. Besides his own work there he is also helping to organise a new sketching group among the farmers and contributes ideas and support for their amateur dramatic group.

"When I go to a factory or building site," Brueck told me, "I try to find a way to communicate with the people working there; to learn from them about their work and to bring them into contact with art." He told how the young construction workers had looked over his shoulder while he was sketching and then argued with him about the pictures and about art, something which had never interested most of them before. He had told them, for example, that his portraits of them were not meant to have a perfect resemblance, for he was trying to say something of a more general nature than simply what the young fellow looked like.

Brueck maintained that such portraits, if successful, and good pictures in general, can bring about richer, deeper emotions in people, making them better individually and better able to contribute to the world about them. He told me with some pride that a rather tough, but empty-headed lad had changed noticeably for the better after being painted and seeing himself — both his good and bad qualities — through the eyes of the artist.

Brueck stressed constantly his desire to bridge the gap between artist and working man, to learn to say something in his paintings which would be of interest and value for the man on the building site or at the lathe.

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Who makes the decisions for the city government regarding art, I asked, and where does the money come from?

The money used by the city to pay for commissions to painters, sculptors, composers and others comes from the cultural fund accruing from the 5 pfennig tax on all cinema, theatre, concert and dance tickets.

Final decisions on whom to commission and what to buy are made by members of the city's Cultural Department together with the "Cultural Fund Curatorium", a group of representatives from theatres, factories, offices and various organisations including the artist's league. In addition, another group made up only of artists and sculptors recommends artists and works of art to the other two bodies.

How else can artists make a living? One of the main ways is by helping to decorate new buildings. New factories, central housing projects, social and cultural buildings spend 3% of their building allotment for artistic decoration. This includes statues, murals and framed pictures as well as mosaic work, decorative iron work and the like. With the current increase in construction in the GDR, Brueck told me, there will soon be too few artists to carry out all these jobs.

Other artists work for the press or do book illustrations. Some make posters, work for film or television or take on decoration jobs at fairs and exhibitions — depending on their interests. All these jobs are relatively plentiful and quite remunerative.

What about private sales? There are occasional demands for portraits, he said. But as for other works of art, there are very few people here in the GDR who are interested in hanging original paintings on their walls. "The intellectuals of the kind who previously would have been eager to buy such pictures are still more interested in getting TV sets, refrigerators, cars or trips abroad. Perhaps this will change when the demand for these commodities has finally been satisfied, but at present they still prefer to hang up an inexpensive reproduction of Van Gogh or Gauguin."

As for the art shops, there are problems here too. Most artists, whatever else they argue about, are in agreement that a large proportion of what is shown and sold in many art shops is trash — especially the atrocious oil paintings of Bavarian huts, wooded lanes, pounding surf and stags at bay. But this is still what millions want to hang up in their living rooms; when asked, they often say that they do not want pictures of steel mills.

Brueck is by no means only for pictures of steel mills, of course, and he has done many peaceful landscapes, especially in Bulgaria, where he paid two lengthy visits in the past few years. He also spoke against the artists, more prevalent several years ago than today probably, who paint numerous joyous but boring pictures of factory life filled with immaculate machines and people wearing clean work clothes and Colgate smiles. He called that kind of artist simply dishonest. But he does believe that by going to the factories and cooperative farms and making true-to-life pictures of the people there he can improve relations between artist and working man, win new fans for good art and combat the trashy pictures, whether of stags or steel mills.

As I have said, many artists here have different ideas, and there are sharp disagreements as to goal and method as well as criticisms of Brueck and his style. Even when he himself is the target, he pointed out that disagreement in the field of art is a good thing, and he said that he hopes it grows and results in broad public discussions and better paintings.

Giant Power Plant Starts Humming

The giant new power plant at Luebbenau 45 miles south of Berlin started up its first unit of six 50,000 kw generators in early April. This was enough to provide electricity for three cities the size of Newcastle-on-Tyne in Britain or Akron, Ohio in the U. S. A.

When completed, the plant will generate 1,300,000 kw of electricity, making it one of the largest steam power plants in Europe. This is a greater capacity than the famed Boulder (Hoover) Dam in the U.S.A. Using the huge quantities of lignite (brown coal) in this area as fuel, the plant with its increasing capacity will help satisfy the power requirements of the GDR's rapidly-growing industry.

Experts pointed out that construction, from the first shovelful of earth to the first kilowatt hour of electricity, had been achieved in a record 26 months. They also observed that huge 50,000 and 100,000 kw turbines like those being used in Luebbenau had never been produced before 1945 in eastern Germany.

Power plant projects like Luebbenau have already made the GDR leading country in Europe in per capita electricity consumption.

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BASIC HISTORY BOOK

Shirer's "Rise and Fall"

"The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich", By William L. Shirer.
English edition, Secker and Warburg, 63 shillings.
American edition, Simon and Shuster, $10.

Many readers of GERMAN REPORT have asked us in the past if we can recommend a history book which tells the full story of Hitler's Germany. It has always been difficult to answer, since there have been dozens of such books, but nearly all of them dealt with only one or two aspects of the question. Now William Shirer, whom older readers will recall as the author of "Berlin Diary", published in the early years of the war, has compiled a monster 1200-page volume which really does cover most phases of the story.

Anybody who wants to know the background of the German problem of today should, I think, read this book. I disagree strongly with Mr Shirer on some of his judgements, and I feel that he has, for instance, sadly neglected the role of the working class opposition to Hitler, but despite such shortcomings, his "Rise and Fall" is a better one volume study of the subject than anything else which has yet appeared in English. And I should just like to quote one paragraph from the early pages of the book. Dealing with the background to the rise of Hitler, Mr Shirer writes:

"In November 1918 the Social Democrats, holding absolute power, might have quickly laid the foundation for a lasting democratic republic. But to have done so they would have had to suppress permanently, or at least curb permanently, the forces which had propped up the Hohenzollern Empire and which would not loyally accept a democratic Germany: the feudal Junker landlords and other upper castes, the magnates who ruled over the great industrial cartels, the roving condottieri of the free corps, the ranking officials of the imperial civil service and, above all, the military caste and the members of the General Staff. They would have had to break up many of the great estates, which were wasteful and uneconomic, and the industrial monopolies and cartels, and clean out the bureaucracy, the judiciary, the police, the universities and the Army of all who would not loyally and honestly serve the new democratic regime."

The steps outlined by Mr Shirer, the steps which the Social Democrats did not take in 1918, are precisely the steps which were taken in East Germany in 1945, the steps which made it possible to establish the new Germany, the German Democratic Republic. And they are precisely not taken in West Germany, which is dominated once again today by the monopolies and cartels, and a bureaucracy, judiciary, police and army caste inherited from the nazis.

"Britain is Hereditary Enemy"

— Bonn State Secretary

Britain is Germany's "Erbfeind" (hereditary enemy), a German officer named Theodor Sonnemann stated in a book published in nazi Germany in 1941. The campaign of hatred and lying propaganda against Germany in Britain is mainly fed by Jewish emigrants with a criminal background, he added.

Today Theodor Sonnemann is State Secretary in the West German Ministry of Agriculture.

Here are a few short extracts from Herr Sonnemann's book, entitled "The Double Encirclement", published in Berlin in 1941 by E. S. Mittler.

"The campaign of hate against the new Germany (in the years before World War Two, ed.) was launched by emigrants ... Atrocity lies played a very big part from the very beginning. These lies were the particular field of the emigrants, particularly the Jewish emigrants, who claimed to be the victims of barbaric persecution, although in fact, as the Fuehrer stated, they had mainly fled because they were wanted by the prosecutor, or because they found no room in Germany for the sort of business in which they specialise." (p. 103)

"The British, then as now, opposed the German claims for living space for its overflowing population, and German claims for a fair share of the riches of the earth. Instead of respecting these claims the British worked out how much richer each Englishman would be if Germany were wiped out." (p. 123)

"As soon as Britain realised that the results of the (First) World War had not been enough to reduce Germany to a state of political and economic impotence, the ruling circles decided to do everything to throw Germany to the floor again. They developed a large scale campaign of hatred, a campaign which knew no bounds, against National Socialist Germany. They missed no opportunity of attacking Germany, its leading men, and the measures which it took. All enemies of the new Reich found refuge and support in Britain. (Britain) gave first the Czechs and then the Poles full permission to torture as they would the Germans entrusted to them, until Germany lost all patience." (p. 135)

"We can see exactly all the methods used by Britain to launch the present war, the methods which it uses in waging the war, and the targets which it intends to achieve by means of this second war against Germany. Today we can recognise better than in 1914 the true face of our enemy. Today we recognise our hereditary enemy better than we did then; today we know better than we did before for what and against what we are fighting". (p. 136)

The nazi and anti-Semitic writings of the present West German State Secretary were brought to the light of day in the Berlin newspaper "Neue Deutsche Bauernzeitung" on March 24th.

On April 12th the West German news magazine "Spiegel" reprinted some extracts from Herr Sonnemann's book, and reported that the Government Press Office in Bonn had expressed the wish that no reference should be made to the revelations in the West German press.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

If you are old enough to remember the closing months of World War Two, the chances are that the name of the little town of Torgau may ring a bell in your memory. It came booming into the news in the hectic days of April 1945, when the nazi armies were reeling to defeat.

I was working at the time as news editor of Jerusalem Radio. One wall in our newsroom was covered with a huge map on which we marked up the advances of the allied armies as they crashed into Germany from east and west, but the armies were moving so swiftly by April that our flags lagged hopelessly behind events. Suddenly, on April 27th, the tape machines broke into a clatter, and the following message came in:

"General Eisenhower reports that firm contact has been established between his ground forces and those of our Soviet allies... The first contact between patrols took place at Torgau 4.40 p. m. on April 25th, when a first lieutenant and three men of an intelligence and reconnaissance platoon of a US division met forward elements of the Russian guards division."

As we read this message, Moscow Radio began booming out one of its famous orders of the day:

"The German troops in northern Germany have thus been cut off from the German troops in southern Germany. To mark this victory, Moscow will salute the valiant troops of the First Ukrainian Army and the allied British and American troops with 24 salvos from 324 guns. Long live the victory of the freedom-loving peoples over Germany."

As we battered our typewriters to get this story out, we knew that this news meant the end of the war was very very near. The allies from the west and the allies from the east had linked up, right in the centre of Germany.

Why do I drag this old news up now? Because on April 25th this year, 16 years to the day after the historic link-up at Torgau, two of the four Americans who made first contact with the Red Army came back to Torgau, now a peaceful little provincial town in the German Democratic Republic. They were Joseph Polowsky from Chicago, and Leroy Hamlin, an American Indian of the Ute tribe from Towoac Reservation, Colorado. The members of his tribe collected money so that Hamlin could make the trip back to the Elbe sixteen years later.

By John Peet

There was a little ceremony round the monument which has been erected on the site of the historic meeting. Against the peaceful background of the Elbe, with its green river banks and amidst masses of spring flowers, Soviet, American and German representatives gathered to recall the occasion. Erich Gruetzner, a member of Democratic Germany's Council of State, recalled that at the original meeting on the Elbe the American and Soviet soldiers had pledged that they would destroy fascism and nazism for ever. In the GDR this pledge had been carried out.

In a short interview after the meeting, Joseph Polowsky recalled that he had been present two days earlier when the great memorial at Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp had been dedicated. "Here in the GDR you have erected monuments to the victims of Sachsenhausen and the meeting on the Elbe" he said. "They are both monuments for peace and liberty and unity. In many conversations with citizens of the GDR we have satisfied ourselves that the ideals of the anti-Hitler coalition have been put into practice".

When I was thumbing through the old newspaper files looking for the exact date of the meeting on the Elbe, I stumbled on an announcement made by President Truman in this connection. Most of President Truman's statements can be allowed to stay lost, but I think this one deserves resurrection. He said, on April 27th 1945:

"The Anglo-American Armies under the command of General Eisenhower have met the Soviet forces where they intended to meet, in the heart of Nazi Germany. The union of our arms in the heart of Germany has a meaning for the world which the world will not miss. It means, first, that the last faint desperate hope of Hitler and his gangster government has been extinguished. The common front and the common cause of the powers allied in this way against tyranny and inhumanity have been demonstrated in fact as they have long been demonstrated in determination.

"The junction of our forces at this moment signalises to ourselves and to the world that the collaboration of our nations in the cause of peace and freedom is an effective collaboration which can surmount the greatest difficulties...

"Nations which can plan and fight together shoulder to shoulder in the face of such obstacles of distance and of language and communications as we have overcome, can live together and can work together in the common labour of the organisation of the world for peace".

Well said, Mr Truman.

* * *

Over the past few months the Committee for German Unity in Berlin has published extensive extracts from the nazi archives, showing that Dr Hans Globke, Adenauer's State Secretary, was one of the key men in the nazi anti-Semitic campaign of extermination. Most of the details have been published in GERMAN REPORT. Dr Globke, since he had no defence, always very wisely refused to tell his side of the story. A few days ago the TV service of the GDR broadcast an overwhelming documentary film telling the facts about Globke's past. Since millions of people in West Germany watched the programme, Globke decided he could keep silent no longer, and for a fabulous twenty minutes on April 28th he appeared on West German TV in an attempt to justify himself.

He stuttered and stammered and hemmed and hawed. but he could not deny that he had drafted anti-Semitic legislation for the nazis. His "defence" was that he had really been a resistance fighter, and that he had drafted the anti-Jewish laws in order to prevent them being even sharper.

One of his arguments was classic. Yes, Dr Globke said, it was true that he had drafted the nazi law of 1938 forcing all Jews to brand themselves by taking the name "Israel" or "Sara" as a second name. The original nazi aim, Dr Globke claimed, had been to make all Jews take a hyphenated family name, with "Judah" tacked on to their real family name. His version of the law had been much milder, Dr Globke said.

Dr Globke's extraordinary defence was too much even for the hardened and cynical West German radio reporter conducting the interview, who sat there with open mouth and a slightly dazed expression as Globke haltingly explained that this had been a valiant and dangerous bit of resistance work.

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